



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 887

January Session, 2003

AN ACT CONCERNING POLLING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-168d of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2004*):

3 (a) [On or before July 1, 1980, each] Each polling place shall be made
4 accessible to and usable by physically disabled persons by [complying
5 with the following standards of accessibility: (1) Doors, entrances, and
6 exits used to gain access to or egress from the polling place shall have a
7 minimum width of thirty-one inches; (2) temporary ramps shall be
8 made available or curb cuts provided where necessary for accessibility
9 to the entrance; (3) any stairs necessarily used to enter the polling place
10 shall have a temporary handrail and ramp; (4) in the polling place, no
11 barrier shall impede the path of the physically disabled to the voting
12 booth] complying with the standards of the State Building Code, as
13 revised pursuant to section 29-269, relating to accessibility to, and use
14 of, buildings and structures by persons with disabilities.

15 (b) The registrars of voters in each town, or the legislative body of
16 the town, shall select as polling places only those sites which [meet the
17 standards of accessibility required under the State Building Code, as
18 revised pursuant to section 29-269, if applicable, or this section]
19 comply with the standards of the State Building Code, as revised
20 pursuant to section 29-269, relating to accessibility to, and use of,

21 buildings and structures by persons with disabilities.

22 (c) The registrars or such legislative body may select a site [not
23 meeting] that does not comply with such standards if (1) no available
24 site within the voting district or town can reasonably be made
25 accessible, [if] and (2) an application for waiver is filed with the
26 Secretary of the State and approved by the Office of Protection and
27 Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities. An application for waiver shall
28 be filed at least sixty days prior to the date on which the primary or
29 election will be held and shall include evidence of the town's efforts to
30 secure an accessible location and reasons why the town is unable to
31 provide a polling place that complies with such standards. The
32 Secretary of the State shall, within seven days after receipt of any such
33 application, refer the application to said office of protection and
34 advocacy. Said office shall, within thirty days, review the application
35 and inform the Secretary of the State of its approval or disapproval.
36 The Secretary of the State shall notify the applicant for waiver of such
37 approval or disapproval within seven days after the secretary is so
38 informed.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	January 1, 2004

GAE *Joint Favorable Subst.*